

Grandview Mo.  
Feb 7 1911

Dear Bessie:-

You were right.

I was about to send you another epistle but thought I had better wait maybe you would remember that you were indebted to me for one.

I certainly enjoyed myself the evening I was there and you may be assured I shall repeat the offense as often as I can or you will allow me.



That cake & coffee could not be beat. I am like a girl that once boarded where I did. She said there was nothing better than cake & hot more cake. I heartily agree with her. It makes no difference about the variety just so it's cake.

I think you and Nellie could probably get up some religious excitement on Ethel's part if you would do as a certain woman did Aunt Susan was telling me about.

You know they used to hold outdoor meetings when the weather was good and everyone far miles around attended and stayed sometimes for weeks. Along in the fifties they were holding a meeting not far from here and the preacher had expostulated and ranted and done everything else they usually do when they try to get something started & they call it but it was no use. He wasn't a quitter though. Finally down one of the aisles one of the good sisters jumped out and began screaming and dancing up and down as they usually do when they get religious. The preacher made a dive for her with his hand ex-



tended saying "Oh sister I am so  
glad to see you come out and say  
you have religion. You are a be-  
tween stream's man. I have n't got it  
I have n't got it. There's a lizard on  
my dress and she kept on dancing  
until Aunt Sue and someone else  
took her outside and one of these  
little lizards fell off her dress.  
Try it on Ethel. It will work I think.

I remember Miss Southern very  
well your opinion of her is good.  
Mam said that the preacher was  
going dancers card players and  
theater goes fits. Well he has done  
all these things until he is tired

of them. Now he has taken to  
preaching for a change.

I also have stayed from the  
Presbyterian fold, though I remem-  
ber my Sunday school days very well.

I am by religion like everything else.

I think there is more in acting  
than in talking. I had an uncle who  
said when one of his neighbors got  
religion strong on Sunday, he was  
going to lock his smokehouse on  
Monday. I think he was right from  
the little I have observed.

We had a neighbor out here who  
could pray louder and talk more  
fervently in meetin' than anyone I



over heard. He'd say in every prayer "Lord help this congregation to stop and think where they're a grieve at." We finally found that he beat his wife and did every thing else that's "oney".

I think religion is something one should have on Wednesday and Thursday as well as Sunday. Therefore I don't believe that these protracted meetings do any real good they are mostly excitement and when the excitement wears off people are as they always were.

I like to play cards and dance as far as I know how and go to shows and do all the things they said I shouldn't but I don't feel badly about it. I go when I feel like it and the good church members are glad to hear what it's like. You see I'm a member but not a strenuous one.

I suppose I am getting to be a bore by this time but I like to get letters so well especially from you that I do the best I can to deserve them. I shall be in Independence on the 14<sup>th</sup> to attend the Probate Court (think of it.) and if you are at home



I should like very much to come  
around again.

I am glad your mother like my  
efforts on the piano. I am ashamed  
of it myself. But you know a  
farmer can't be a pianist much  
as he'd like to be. Mary is getting  
to be a pretty good piano player.  
very tickled as Shanty Shanty says.  
He says his piano has a wheel barrow  
movement and a fine escapement.  
It was an old fashioned square.

Write when you can to  
Yours sincerely  
Harry.

Can't spell my own name.



Grandview Mo.

Mar 19 1911

Dear Bessie:

I sincerely hope you enjoyed the playing of that musical editor as well as I did. He was simply great. You know that I think when good music is played in his style it is always enjoyable.

Now I didn't cause you to do anything against your religious principles. You know that I know nothing about Lent and such things and when I was urging you to go with me to dinner at the Baltimore



I was merely thinking of giving you all a good time. That was the first time I was ever at an Episcopal Church and I like the service very much. But I guess I'll have to remain a Lightfoot Baptist for a while yet anyway. You know I told you that I also had strayed from the Presbyterian fold; but I went in the other direction. In place of more form we have not any. But there are many things I do not like. For instance they do not want a person to go to shows or dance or do anything for a good time. Well I like to do all those things and play cards besides. So you see I am not very strong as a Baptist. Anyhow I don't think any church on earth will take you to heaven if you're not real anyway. I believe in people living what they believe and talking afterwards. don't you?

Well hang religion anyway; it's a dull subject; but I'll not ask you to dinner any more till after Easter Sunday. Will that be all right?

Mary has not arrived home yet. The last I heard of her she was in Independence.



When she gets down there she never  
knows when to come home; and I  
don't blame her. I like Independence  
and if I ever get rich enough to re-  
tire (be a retired farmer ah.) I think  
I'll land in Independence.

We go to sowing oats in the morning.  
It will take a week or two as we have  
about 80 acres to sow. Mr. Hall wanted  
to know of me if we were planting  
wheat now. You know a town farmer  
always gets his seeds mixed. We sow  
wheat, oats and grass seed and plant  
corn and potatoes. See the difference?  
I did certainly enjoy Miss Dickey's

(I guess that's how you spell her)  
excitable conversation. I bet she is  
a person who enjoys life. You know  
when people can get excited over the  
ordinary things in life they live. You  
know a good author makes common  
things seem great in books and people  
who can live them that way always  
enjoy life. I never did know but one  
boy that way and only one man. Neither  
of them can cross the street with out  
having an adventure worth telling of.  
When she was telling about those  
chickens and that trip to St Louis  
I thought I'd go up. I guess



they thought I was perfect chump because I forgot to tell them and you too that I enjoyed the evening but I most certainly did and you please tell them will you? Next time I'll do better provided I can have a next time.

Mamma has seven little chickens and more coming. They looked rather out of place when we had that snow. I told her she would have to begin knitting socks if she was going to raise chickens in the winter. The last few days have been fine on them though. One of my numerous cousins was over this evening and she had seventy six chickens big enough to fly. They were incubator chickens. I hope you don't cook yours before they hatch. They say that is generally what happens the first time. So be careful.

Did you get your suitcase alright? I wish we had thought and taken it to the N.Y. Life Bldg and then we could have got it. No one ~~ever~~ ever thought that man would play over time. They don't generally.

Now please don't wait so long to write as I do enjoy your letters even if you



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Grandview Mo.  
May 3/1911

Dear Bessie:-

I don't care what kind of paper you write on. I should be just as pleased to get a letter from you on wrapping paper as on the finest stationery I wish. So write whether you have any stationery or not, although that last looked good enough for anybody to me.

I am sorry to hear of your chickens dying. Gramma has lost quite a number though. She says it is the cold damp weather more than any thing else, and then some of hers she says have been supporting families upon themselves. She is going to dip them as soon



as the weather will permit and then she says they'll be all right.

I had a letter from Nellie saying she was going to quit teaching in Independence and go down to Sugar Creek. They offered her a larger salary. I told her not to fall in love with a hunk but if she ran across a Standard Oil Magnate to not him.

Your remarks on the petting and privileges of the oldest one of a family are absolutely true as I can testify from experience. Although the other two back me down that I am always the petted one.

I have been reading David Copperfield and have really found out that I couldn't appreciate Dickens before. I have only read Oliver Twist and Tale of two Cities. They didn't make much of an impression and I never read anything else. A neighbor sent me Dombey & Son & David C and I am glad for it but awakened a new interest. It is almost a reconciliation to having my leg broken to contemplate the amount of reading I am going to do this summer. I am getting better fast and I am afraid I'll get well so soon I won't get to read enough. Isn't that an awful thought?

I really don't mind staying in the house on rainy cloudy days like this but when they



are nice like last Sunday I can hardly sit still. I begin to think of ~~corn~~ to plant garden to make grass seed to sow and a hundred and one things to do and then I pick up a magazine and forget it. I am not worrying much I guess for they tell me I am getting fat. Then papa is able to get around now and will soon throw his crutches away and then things will turn.

I guess I won't get rich this year although we did break up a field that hasn't had a crop raised on it since 1873. I was figuring on raising 5000 bushels of corn and at least paying my debts but as Mr. McAuliffe says



my creditors will have to wait.

I do think that Mr. Higginson is the  
killingest person I have run across  
in any book any where. He is exactly  
true to life. I know a half dozen of  
him right here in Grandview. They  
are always waiting for something  
to turn up or for someone to  
die and leave them something. I never  
expect to be rich but if I can't  
make what I get myself without  
waiting for someone to leave it to  
me I hope somebody will knock  
me on the head and put me out of  
danger.

I am sorry Ethel didn't get out  
Sunday as I'd ~~sure~~ like to see her  
as well as get the book. I told Nellie



to tell her if she didn't bring it out  
next Sunday I am going to get in an  
ambulance and come after it.

I guess you'll have a good time  
with your bridge club. Speaking of  
people crying at plays I don't think  
there is anything funnier. That is  
the only way I enjoy a tragedy is to  
laugh at those who cry. Uncle Harrison  
says he'd rather go to the Opera  
and laugh all evening then sit and  
grate the enamel off his false teeth  
to see Mansfield or Sothern or any other  
big gun. He is very near right I think.  
Well I hope you'll consider this worth an  
answer as I'll be glad to get one. Am  
hoping to be around in ten days anyway.  
Sincerely Harry.



Grandview Mo.  
May 23 1911

Dear Bessie:-

I guess there is nothing  
for me to do but wait until I am  
able and then remove Ethel's wig. I  
sure thought I was consigning your  
book & life to a safe messenger when  
I gave them to her. Vivian hasn't said  
a word about them to me. I shall  
corner him tonight. I have an idea  
a certain lady friend of his could tell  
me where they are if he does it. I  
shall try and make reparation for the book  
anyway if it does not eventually reach you.  
I have enjoyed Vivian immensely. I sup-  
pose it depicts Roman life realistically  
but I like for them to be more cheerful



about it. I am going to read the book again. I found out the name of a Roman Emperor that history never says anything about, in it. He ~~all~~ really existed too! You see I have n't anything to do but run down historic rumors, and every book I read since I have been laid up that mentions anyone at all in history I never heard of causes me to look him up. I always forget him five minutes after words but I have the satisfaction of knowing he was anyway.

I really wish Rex Beach would do something with that Meri D'Well and he does nothing. It makes you feel like the end of the year instead of the middle the way he chaws it out.

I've an idea the poor boy'll loose his job now and his girl and then have a love feast with his old man come back and get the girl and the R. R. R. and live happily until alimony time. What do you think?

Mary's <sup>misceles</sup> cousin in Texas sent her two horned toads in a box by mail the other day. She thought it was a box of pills. It was all wrapped up and very small. You ought to have heard her squawk when she opened the box. You know they have tails and horns on their heads, <sup>their tails are not on their heads.</sup> and are furious looking little bunties, but are harmless. They feast on ~~fly~~ flies, ants etc. I don't see how these two lived for the box was air tight.

Mary and Vinan went to the Ruskin High School Commencement Thursday night. Said it was fine.



I guess they are all fine the first few times but when very many pass they get old don't you think? They sure must be getting mighty independent if the makers wanted to wear claw hammer coats. That's spreading things thick. The H C Post has offered \$10.00 for the prettiest graduation dress not to cost over \$5.00. Do you suppose one can be made for that?

That rain was the finest thing this year. If it hadn't come we would have gone to the wall sure enough. Now we expect to raise something anyway. I hate rainy days generally but these lectures sure looked good to me.

I have an illustration of what happens to people who set grocery store eggs. I am enclosing it. Did any of yours



come out that way? Literature art etc.  
do not go very well with poultry do they?  
One good gang of poultry ~~though~~ <sup>though</sup> ~~great~~  
more for the country though than all  
the art ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~Yikes~~ <sup>Yikes</sup> could buy. You  
know I think a man an ~~atheist~~ <sup>atheist</sup> ~~piantist~~  
is the last thing on earth. They do no  
good for themselves or anyone else. I  
never did see one who paid his debts  
if there was anyway to avoid it.  
That shows his artistic temperament,  
that, a lot of long hair and a kangaroo  
walk. Sometimes they go dingy or get  
two or three divorces. That also is a  
temperamental sign. Some French  
alienist says that geniuses are insane  
anyway. I guess he is right in some



cases anyway. It is all right to be an  
artist or pianist if you are a real  
genius like Liszt or Hoffman or  
Turner or Whistler but the ordinary  
run of every day artists and pianists  
who imitate these men won't do.

I really thought once I'd be an  
irony tickler but I am glad my money  
ran out before I got too far. Who  
knows maybe I'll be a Cincinnati  
and be elected constable some day.

If you had called up the other day I'd  
have made it to the place some way.  
I can get around the house to some  
extent. Soon as ever I can persuade  
the M.D. to take the cast off I'll do fine.  
I hope you'll consider this worthy an  
answer I'd like to see Mr. Smith I bet  
it's fine. This is the end of my stationery Sincerely  
Harry.



Grandmère Mo.  
Nov. 1, 1911

Dear Bessie:-

I am most awful glad you think a letter to me worth while. They are more than worth while to me. You can never guess how glad I am to get them.

I really didn't mean to put my principle aside in the past tense. That is something that will never be past with me. My grammar was at fault, that's all.

I suppose Ethel has told you all about the wedding. I was scared nearly to death and so was Virian. Luella was as calm as if she'd been married a dozen times before. She is more like my Grandmother



Young than anyone I know. If my dear Pete doesn't  
make a success with her to help him he should  
be flouted out. Everyone is so well satisfied with  
the match something surely will happen. Even her  
grandmother thinks Vivian is almost good enough  
for her and mamma says she's too good for him.  
They are down to pa in laws tonight. Vivian actually told  
me that they were going to town tomorrow to buy the  
furniture they need. I guess they'll be at home  
about Monday or Tuesday. The chivarin is set for  
Saturday I think. If it is I'll not be present for  
I am coming to Independence if you'll be at  
home. I am going with Mary and Ethel and Nellie  
to the Schubert Saturday afternoon and I'd like  
very much to come down that night provided of  
course that you have nothing better to do.

I want an auto so badly tonight I really don't  
know what to do. I have a special invitation to  
assist in the dedication of a new lodge at Siroga  
Park. I shall stay at home because I'd simply  
be a chunk of ice by the time I drove to 67<sup>th</sup> Street  
in a buggy. I couldn't go on the train because papa &  
I had to pull up the cornetts and berts and bury  
them this afternoon so they wouldn't freeze. I  
will get my debts paid and then have something  
left I'm going to invest it in a benzine buggy  
as the boys say. Then I suppose I'll have the  
debts to pay over. Just imagine how often I'd turn  
the pike from here to Independence. I guess



you'd better be glad I haven't one for  
I'd simply make my self monotonous  
to you. I guess there'll not be much  
danger of my coming too often this  
winter for I'll have to work as true  
Ethel to the contrary notwithstanding.  
I always make it a point to invite  
them out when things are arranged so  
I haven't anything to do but tease  
and torment them. That is how Ethel  
arrived at her conclusion.

The W. M. series begins soon I see.  
Don't you forget you have pianist dates  
with me to go. Pianists are all I can  
stand this winter. I am crazy about any  
kind of pretty music but of course I  
can appreciate pianists most. Mary has  
been practicing on a Mozart Sonata  
that has the most beautiful melody I  
know of. It makes you think of Greek



and Roman fairy stories. Did you  
ever sit and listen to an orchestra play  
a fine overture and imagine that things  
were as they ought to be and not as  
they are? Music that I can understand,  
Strauss makes me feel that way. I  
think some of the old masters must have  
been in communication with a fairy  
goddess of some sort. That is Mozart  
Chopin and Verdi were. Wagner and Brahms  
evidently were in cahoots with Pluto.  
Did you ever know that some of those  
men wrote the worst trash imaginable  
for pot smokers? Raff has over a thousand  
compositions and about nine hundred  
are fit for nothing. He'd write one every  
time he got hungry. I guess you can't  
blame the poor man. That is the reason  
nukes should be wise enough to pick



the <sup>and pension</sup> ~~genuines~~ <sup>then</sup> so they can do their best.

It seems to me that they would be easy enough picked out because they always beat their ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> wives, in run away with some other man's. Wouldn't Reno be full of pensioners?

I hope you'll be at home Saturday. If you're not it'll be my loss of course. I'll phone in the morning some time after I get to town.

You see I am sending you the other half of that sheet & you in two boxes.

I want you to show me some staiding when I come down. I never saw any. I guess men it is ancient. If I have I knew it not. You owe me a letter now. Next time I'll wind up and fill too full sheets. Now you know what's coming so soon.

Sincerely Harry



Grandview Mo.  
Jan. 14 I think.

Dear Bessie:-

My South Missouri Limited  
left Sheffield on the dot and was two  
hours late at Grandview, which I think  
is a record that would be hard to beat.  
There were only about twenty passengers  
and we had to do acrobatic stunts up  
and down the aisle and take turns  
at an old stove in one end of the car  
to keep warm. I didn't get cold, but  
there was a woman and a baby that did,  
at least the kid made a noise as if it  
was. Coming from the depot I really  
got too hot. You know I had a cap, mittens  
and overshoes waiting for me and I walked



as if His Majesty was behind me which made me feel as if he was. Do you know they had quit looking for me and had eaten all the hot mince pie. That made me wish more than ever that I had stayed in Independence. Mary finally went and got me a piece that was cold and I managed to eat it. Just a half pie was all. Not all I ate just all the pie I ate.

I have something I want to say now while it's on my mind. I think you look better in that black dress you wore Thursday evening than in anything I ever saw you wear. I intended telling you so when you wore it to the show in N. C. but the proper opportunity didn't appear. The strawberry blond isn't in it with you when you wear that dress. On any other time for that matter. That sounds awful mushy don't it? It's not though when it is meant. Will you please tell me how you made that caramel desert you had for dinner the time before this last when I was there? I can taste that from memory yet. It was undoubtedly nectar of the gods. I am going to coerce Mary into making me enough to ponder on if you'll tell me how it's made. How did Miss Jessie & Miss Dicie enjoy the show. I guess the kids spread themselves on Friday



night. I wish I'd stayed and gone  
again. It was so cold I had to pass  
over our lodge meeting anyway.

I really don't know what I am going  
to do if people take me for an Englishman.  
I can't get over it some way. But Ella  
said someone took me for Tom Swire  
when I was in Emory Birds with Ethel  
just before Christmas. I really don't  
see what I've done to merit such  
treatment. Of course the other people may  
feel as badly over it as I do but that  
doesn't help matters. How would you  
like to be taken for Miss Jennie? Really  
it will be dangerous to your good name  
to be seen out with me if they keep it  
up. I'll have to rock my overcoat and  
buy a black one and get a monocle for



each eye then I'll be a person all myself.

I just got a fine letter from Miss Maggie. She forgave me for not coming to her dinner party and said she'd give me a dinner yet, and I need not take her to a show just because I didn't get there. I'm going to take her now sure. Miss Maggie thinks too well of me that is she has too good an opinion of me. I wish she didn't. It's awful hard to live up to good opinions and do the right thing at the right time especially when you have an insane desire to do something real or any. I have always had that desire but never the nerve to put it over publicly yet. Some day



perhaps I'll create a small stir  
among my friends and acquaintances  
by robbing a bank (the clerk stopped when  
I wrote that.) or doing some other  
Diamond Dick stunt. You know  
I like adventure — when it's some  
body else's adventure. I may even  
persuade you to run off with me  
some day when you're not in  
your right mind exactly.

Now you owe me a letter on the  
strength of that last statement  
if no other. Please send it along.

The lawyer's coming tomorrow and  
Harry stays at home so be sure and  
write Sincerely Harry.



Dear Bess:

I had started you the most doleful letter you ever got from me Monday. It was one long apology for getting sick Sunday and not being able to hear Byron on Tuesday. After looking it over I've decided to discard the whole sheet and start new. Though I doubt if my empty head can conjure up anything that will interest you. Remember I was up



till one on Thursday Wednesday  
Friday. Saturday Sunday and Tuesday  
getting up each day at five. You  
can see that even Napoleon couldn't  
expect any more of a person in  
the way of wakefulness. Wednesday I  
was to see you Thursday we had  
called ourselves Friday today Saturday  
went calling and you know where  
I went Sunday and Tuesday. I  
had the most cursed nap Sunday  
morning you ever read of. I told  
you I think that Uncle Harrison  
occupied a bed in my room Saturday  
night and began arousing me at  
half past four. I finally got up at  
six and decided to take a nap from  
~~the~~ seven to ten. The telephone and  
neighbors calling knocked that out. So  
with all my loss of sleep I must



have been very poor com-  
pany Sunday night. For  
the rest of this week it is the  
key for me at 9 P.M. except  
of course Friday for the D.D.  
9 P.M. of the 59th Masonic District  
of Mo. And Sunday night if  
you'll let me come. Maybe  
I'll have to work and can't  
I hope not though.

You really don't know  
how much I enjoyed Mr  
Bryan. I am one of his  
staunchest admirers. M.B.



would not have been half  
so good though had you not  
been present. You know any  
show is good to me, unless  
it's positively rotten, if I can  
only see it with you. Let's  
hope that some rainy cool  
day soon real soon the  
sooner the better that we  
have lunch in K.C. at—  
well the Hinky dink? or  
tenth and Grand or some other  
place equally as good or



better and then see all the pictures  
that can be crowded into four hours.  
What say you? That'll be a regular  
12th street stunt but if ~~perpetrate~~ <sup>you</sup> do it  
have a good time doing what every  
body does he'll live a mighty good  
life won't he? I'm sure you must  
like picture shows or you wouldn't  
go every night in the week. My conscience  
still nags me a little yet for keeping  
you from going to the Chatanqua in  
the evening Tuesday. If I don't keep  
my head shut about K.C. I'll let you'd  
have gone. Well a person must do  
the wrong thing sometimes just so  
he can have something to be sorry  
for. I can positively assure you  
though you missed not much.  
Though it might have been better  
than what you did see. I'm no  
judge though and thought that



show pretty good.

Do you know I did the  
onejest thing this afternoon  
I was cutting oats right here  
close to the house and am-  
putated the left foot of an old  
hen with five chickens. I felt  
badly about it too. She was over  
in the oats where I couldn't  
see her till I'd already done  
it. Mamma says she'll get all  
right. I hope so. I'd rather any-  
thing most than to hurt some-  
thing that can't tell me



what it thinks of me for doing  
it. That old hen was more  
worried over what became of  
her chickens than she was over  
her pot. There are people  
who could very well profit by  
her example.

Please forgive the Sunday  
school book story but it  
happened and that's what  
I thought of it.

Please borrow more of  
George's paper when you  
write not because of the



size letters but because  
it holds more and makes  
a longer letter. He maybe  
won't miss a few sheets  
and besides I bet he's used  
lots of yarns last winter.  
Tell your mother her fine  
dinner made me entirely  
well and I'm as good as  
new. That Sally L. was sure  
fine as good as if you'd made  
it. That's some compliment  
too. Write quick.  
Sincerely Harry.



Dear Bess:-

As a weather prophet  
I guess most any old farmer  
has P Conner beaten to a  
frizzle. It is sprinkling rain  
now and prospects are good  
for a trash mow. I caught  
the limited last night all  
right. There were five or six  
got off at Grandview. Most of  
them were well diggers for  
Mr Johnson. It's nice to have  
company when you are  
sore even if you don't  
know the company extra



well. It was as dark as a stack  
of purple cats last night and both  
dogs attempted to eat me up as  
I came into the gate. I told Mary  
that I intended giving the Collie  
to you. She nearly had a spasm.  
She pretends to be very much at-  
tached to it. I think that two dogs are  
generally two too many. We have  
a good neighbor up the road who  
has three big set ones and his  
horses and cows are so poor they  
can hardly manage. One dog is a  
sufficiency on a farm and one  
too many in town. They say that  
when an assessor doesn't want  
to be rebuked the best thing for  
him to do is to enumerate all  
the dogs in his district. I have an  
idea that it would be very ef-  
fective if a person had a desire  
for unpopularity.



Aileen and Uncle Harrison  
are both here. I have had a  
fuss with Aileen already. I  
didn't do any thing but throw  
a small piece of bread at her.  
It had some pea soup on it  
but I wasn't aware of that  
fact until it landed on her neck.  
She has been very cool ever  
since that chunk of bread  
took her one in the neck.  
Some people are touchy anyway.  
She'll get over it if she stays  
long around here. What  
Aileen needs is two or three



brothers to pick on her  
turn about. I guess you  
can appreciate what a fine  
effect brothers have on girls.  
My dear much is squalling  
for me to come and enter-  
tain him at a game of  
Coon Can. Can you play it?  
It's some game if you  
play for fun or if you  
have plenty of money and  
are lucky. I only play for  
fun with him. I'd be hope



lessly hope ~~fairer~~ if I had to  
part with a dollar every time  
he beat me. That's the usual  
price of a game. I hope most  
sincerely that it will rain itself  
out before the 4<sup>th</sup>, and also that it  
will rain enough Saturday that  
Bill can't think of Warehousing  
and yet have the roads good  
too. I shall be on deck at your  
house about 9 o'clock or <sup>8:45</sup> ~~9:15~~. It  
will be necessary for us to  
leave at not later than nine be-  
cause the train leaves Sheffield  
at 9:33. We will then arrive at  
Pete's at about eleven, a very proper  
home for country style.

It's necessary that I show this



to a close Uncle Harry  
is having a fit to play  
cards and he's gotten to the  
point where he has to be  
conciliated. (can't spell it)  
I hope your knee got well I  
forgot to ask about it Sunday  
you should have kissed a  
little to remind me. Well  
I hope to see you Friday  
evening as well as Sunday  
morning. You owe me a  
letter. Please use the cloth  
size like this Sincerely Harry



Dear Bess:-

I succeeded in prying Mary loose from the Noland in time for the car although I did not have much time to spare. Girls always can think of pretty things to say at the very last minute. I have Mary fairly well trained though when it comes to catching trains. I suppose the girls are coming out to spend the week end of next week. Mary said so any way. I think she is intending to have Mr Lester's family come over on the same day. Won't we have a picnic. I see where I make me a



led at the barn. It wouldn't be so  
bad if it wasn't for the bugs. The hay  
is new and sweet and all the poets  
say but it is more besides. Poets always  
fail to mention bugs and snakes. There's  
one very tiny red bug that ought to be  
immortalized by Kipling or some other gent  
who writes jingles. I think that I succeeded  
in depleting the supply in Mrs Lester's  
yard anyway. Those said red bugs always  
make one so glad they are not as large  
as grasshoppers or crickets. There really  
wouldn't be any use in humans trying  
to live if they were. Can you imagine  
the size bump a chigger as big as a  
grasshopper could make? They don't have  
them east of the Mississippi. I am wishing  
most heartily that Mrs Lester's party had  
been in Ill or Indiana although I fear  
very much that if it had been I'd  
never have gone. Now I don't suppose  
I could ever induce the hostess to  
construe that last remark as a com-



phiment do you? It was <sup>not</sup> meant  
as it is said for I really had  
a very nice time. I am sleepy  
today and Kansas hand chiggers  
are very very industrious so  
if I say anything to you that  
has a sound of ambiguity  
just remember I mean well  
but am not responsible.

I hope the creek will hurry  
and arrive at the proper  
stage for us to go fishing. By  
then I shall be better hid and  
tough enough to resist at-  
tacks by any kind of insect  
in this state. I suppose



we shall have to take some  
liquid bait along. The kind that  
Hamlet ~~always~~ labeled 'Danish  
Snake Bite Cure'. You know that  
a fishing excursion is never  
complete without at least a  
small bottle. That's what  
makes the fish that fall back  
look so large. I have even heard  
of cases where after using a  
little of this liquid bait a person  
could dump his can of worms  
and catch fresh ones as they  
came to hand provided they were  
not too large. I suppose pieces  
of pink and purple snakes



would make acceptable look food for fish. I suppose also it would be well for us to come home by the river road so we can buy a few fish from the fishermen. That also is entirely customary. I am going to bring a pair of Khaki overalls for making purposes. There's no use going to the creek if you can't go into it.

Did you ever see the Medusa in the moon? I imagined I saw her. The proper directions are to think off <sup>your</sup> girl's countenance and then you can see it. I don't know how the girls are supposed to see it. Probably imagine that they are gazing into a mirror. I'd rather look at the real thing than to hurt my eyes and pain my head gazing into the moon's face. Not that I'd ever ~~have any~~ to put forth any effort whatever to conjure up your face because it's always in plain sight. I never see a pretty girl or the picture of one that I don't think, well if she didn't have this im-



perfection or that one why she'd  
look like Bess. You know per-  
fection can only be reached  
once. You're it. So what's the  
use imagining you in the  
moon when I can see you  
self at Independence.

The threshmen won't come  
today but perhaps tomorrow. I  
hoped they come today so I  
could get to town some day  
this week but I guess I won't  
get in. Hope to see you Sunday  
though. You now owe me a  
table cloth sized letter.  
Sincerely  
Harry.



Dear Bess:-

I am going to send you  
a late letter anyway, hoping I'll  
get one before the week's out.

My Club meeting was a very  
tame affair. The booger were not  
out and I was persuaded to  
defer any action in regard to  
selling the lot at all until after  
Nov. 11 when Grandview is going  
to have a Township Fair. As  
Pres of the Coral Club I instructed  
a committee to buy some ad-  
vertising matter and also to  
raise some money to buy it  
with. It seems that money  
has to be in everything.



I am almost persuaded some times  
that it's bigger than most things. Ex-  
tenders are well represented in the  
House of Lords (Brewers they call themselves)  
as well as in New York's most exclusive  
set. All on account of their ill gotten  
gains. There's no use being a sound dough  
though. As Rutha M. Clay would say  
it's better to be poor but honest  
even if it does hurt like - blazes  
sometimes. In the last month nearly  
every person I've dealt with in business  
has taken some cash and left me  
holding the sack. It's a good thing I  
wasn't appointed on the committee  
to raise money because I'd be tempted  
to embezzle some of the funds.

We are due to have a card party at  
our house tomorrow night. Some of  
the grandest folks are coming down  
to lawn to play 500, with me to tell 'em  
how. Won't that be a joyous job. I am  
going to have a good time at it  
anyway though. They are all rather  
hilarious and you know I'm not  
very backward myself when it comes  
to making noise. If I could only  
make money as easily as I can



stir up a racket I'd have begged  
persuaded or cajoled you into  
thinking Harry was the nicest  
boy in seventeen states. But  
never mind my ship's going  
to come in yet and if it doesn't  
have you aboard it'll only be a  
chained hulk and not worth  
the candle. You know I told you  
once before that I thought you  
the superlative of excellence in  
every thing and I think it harder  
all the time. I've been crazy  
about you ever since I can  
remember. I hope it's a mutual  
admiration society because then  
I can mock harder and not  
get half so tired. You know  
when the motive's strong



enough a man can do most  
any thing if he's got the stuff  
in him. Perhaps I have n't got  
it but there's nothing like  
trying to find out.

Who knows I may be His Ex  
cellency the gov of Montana  
some day (hee hee) How would  
you like to be Mrs Gov?

I dreamed that I owned a  
German Silver mine in Wy-  
oming last night! Wasn't  
that a grand dream on a  
piece of Bride's cake? I guess  
the spangles and white frosts  
gave me the silver suggestion  
but where under heaven could



I get the German part. From my  
Grandad on my mother's side I  
guess he was a Dutchman.

Papa has gone to sleep in his  
chair. He's waiting very patiently  
for me to finish my letter so he  
can go to bed. He occupies the couch  
down here by the stove. I don't feel a  
bit like going to bed now I've got  
the habit of staying up. I guess  
But my oh me how I hate to  
arise at 5 a. m. It has to be done  
though when papa's around home.  
If he goes to bed at half past  
five he gets up at five and so do  
I. Mamma is a sleepy head like  
me. She never wants to get up but  
she can stay up till the small  
hours at night.

I guess this letter is a mixture  
and doesn't amount to much. I  
hope you'll answer it though  
My letters get one day later every  
week. You'll get this one Friday  
unless I mail it on the W.C.S.  
at 6:30 tomorrow. I lost one



by doing that and I'm not  
going to do it again.

Hope to see you Sunday  
evening and get a letter Sunday  
morning.

Most sincerely

Harry.

Papa's going to H.C. tomorrow  
if I can trust him maybe you'll  
get this Thursday.



Dear Bess:-

We are in Ft Stockton today.

I didn't get to write at San Angelo because we didn't stop long enough. It is about to rain here for the first time since November. Uncle Harrison and I were driven out to a big alfalfa farm this morning and he got cold. Said if he ever thawed out he'd never freeze again in this country anyway. I have about given up hope for this proposition now. There's no harm done though, because the old man feels better than he has for two months. My only task will be getting him home from Kansas



seventy from north to south.

I just heard a Dutchman make a joke. Someone asked him to have a drink. He said you'll be said I prefer drink between drinks.

The train has made another start. My most excellent penmanship is now almost illegible by the motion. It affects the spelling also. It is nearly impossible for me to spell correctly at any time and when the train rocks the alphabet becomes jumbled completely in my head. I hope to see you on Wednesday evening. Hold the thought for my good luck. There's no one wants to work half so badly as I do. Will call up when I arrive in town. Dreamt I was taking you to the show last night. Had a new machine (not a Fortifika) I can make the show part come true but not the machine. There's one waiting for me.

Sincerely Harry.



City. He's feeling so well that he'll want to stay there.

There are several Dutchmen aboard who think the country is very fine. They are all going to buy.

The stock agent of the Orient road is with us. He's a real southerner, raised on a plantation at Marshall Texas. He's been arrested by killers and had all kinds of experience. His home is San Angelo. He says that town has more millionaires than any other town in the country its size. They are cowmen. One of them owns a couple of Texas counties. This county we are in has an area equal to two Rhode Islands. It's about 100 miles long and



T. C. H. MINING COMPANY  
ZINC AND LEAD ORESADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
TO HOME OFFICE.

Commerce, Okla., Aug 5 1916

Dear Bros:-

I wrote you yesterday and promised to write again today. Mr. Hughes got a wire from home yesterday evening that his barn had burned, hay, oats and all. He and Mrs. Hughes had to go home and see about it so I am in full charge. I don't seem to be in charge of much. The mine all but shut kind last night. So I shall probably have to ride the rods home instead of the new car. I'm going to give her one more week and then take the consequences. If Jerry Culbertson would get busy and raise some money we could go ahead yet but I doubt if he'll ever take any more interest in the thing now. I may go into the auto business down here if I can make the old mine produce even a reasonable amount.

There is no Ford agency here. One would pay about \$5000.00 a year. They sell about 200 cars every year here, besides supplies and tires. ~~half~~

I have only gone in the hole on this hole about \$11000.00. Do you suppose I'll ever catch up? I



T. C. H. MINING COMPANY  
ZINC AND LEAD ORESADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE  
TO HOME OFFICE.

Commerce, Okla.,

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think I will. Uncle Harry will probably cut me off his will but that can't be helped. If you still have faith in my poor judgment I can still win. You know a man's judgment is good or bad accordingly as he wins or loses on a proposition. It seems to me that it's one big guess and the fellow who guesses right is the man of good judgment. I am going to keep guessing. Mamma says that Grandpa Young was cleared out three times that she can remember but he came up every time with something else. This is only once for me but it's a once that I surely hate to contemplate. I am still hoping the next round of slots will make us a Blue Goose. There's nothing equals this business for making m-canties of men. They really and truly expect something to turn up. Please send me another good letter right away. I make two trips a day to the P.O. looking for your letters.

Most sincerely  
Harry.



Nov 15. 1918

Dear Bess:-

Your good letter of Oct 26 came today and you of course can guess how happy I am to get it. I am enclosing the 40 cents for the very nice things you said to me. Being written with red ink reminds me of a letter I encased just one of my Irishmen the other day. He started out with blue ink and ran out so he said well here goes with a little blood and went on and finished his letter with red ink. I suppose his girl thought he really used blood. A letter from you written with charcoal chalk or clay would be fine enough to send me into the seventh heaven. I don't care what they're written with long as I get them.

I am very glad that Pike Sands holds no malice for my having trusted him. You know it is the hardest job a man ever undertook to be absolutely square and just to 194 men when



never did the Hun score a hit on me.

There are rumors ripe that we will go to Germany to do police and nothing dirty. I'd rather go home but if your Uncle Samuel need us in Germany to Germany we'll go and be as happy as we can. We got on on the last drive and fired up to the last hour and I suppose that is the reason they'll send us if they do. Shall I bring you some German spoils and take more or just some plain loot in the form of gift money? I hope they give me Cologne or Cologne to hold down there should be a good opportunity for a rising young Captain with an itching palm shouldn't you? I can't remember when I was last taking any heavy sleep unless it was some time when I'd been up for 60 or 65 hours and was probably sleeping the next twenty four. I have done that several times. Once I was up so long I thought I never would want to go to bed any more. The Major made me and I felt better after 24 hours of sleep. I hope Bill Houston has a good time and I wish I was in his place, except that I'd like to bring the Battery home now that it has gone through the war with me. I hope to ride a prancing steed down Grand Ave at the head of D Bty, the forth in the Column when the last parade before the Gunston sat is made. I dreamed last night that I was trying to exchange a 100 franc note for real money in a Kansas City bank. It was a disappointment when I found I was not there.

I got a letter from Fred today and shall proceed to answer it. Please keep writing to one who thinks of you.

Always  
Harry

Harry Truman  
Capt. Bty D 1st Fa  
American E.F.



you have good ones and bad ones  
(Every few bad) smart ones and dull  
ones. I love em all and if anybody  
wants a fight or a quarrel with me  
he can get it suddenly and all he  
wants if he says anything derogatory  
about my battery or one of my  
men. I wouldn't trade off the "worst"  
one I've got for any other whole  
battery. While I'm not a braggart  
I believe I can take my outfit and  
beat any other one in the A.E.F. shooting  
or doing any other kind of battery work.  
(Every Bty. Commander in the regiment says  
the same thing) I recommended one of  
my kids to go to West Point and he was  
one out of 7 in the A.E.F. to go. I was  
as proud of him as if I done it myself.  
You know I have succeeded in doing  
what it was my greatest ambition  
to do at the beginning of the war. That  
is to take a battery through as B.C.  
and not lose a man. We fired some  
10000 or 12000 rounds at Heine and were  
shelled ourselves time and again but



Near Verdun  
Camp La Bahalle  
Dec. 14, 1918.

Dear Bessie:-

It is a dark unwholesome  
French day and I am frankly homes-  
sick and very very lonesome. Christmas  
is approaching and I can't possibly  
see those I want to and I do so much  
I could. I can't even send you a  
present that I'm sure you'll get,  
not even a cat's paw. This desolate  
place is about seven kilometers from  
Verdun in a patch of woods. The  
sun hasn't shined in I don't know how  
many days now does it look as if it  
ever intended to shine again.

I guess it will though and I know  
it's shining in USA and at Nice.



physically, make <sup>ten</sup> suite to the mannnas and sweet  
hearts and bring 'em all home. I shall be as nearly  
pleased with myself as I ever expect to be until  
the one great event of my life is pulled off which  
I am fondly hoping will take place immediately  
on my having helped that 194 men in U.S.A.  
You'll have to take a leading part in that event you  
know and then for one I great future. I've al-  
most come to the conclusion that it's not  
intended for me - even to be very rich nor very  
poor and I am about convinced that that will  
be about the happiest state a man can be. To  
have the finest girl in all the whole world (and  
I make the statement without fear of contradiction)  
to share my joys and troubles, mostly joys I'm

hoping, to have just enough of this world's goods  
to make it pleasant to try for more, to own a  
Ford and tour the U.S.A. and France perhaps, al-  
though I've nearly promised old Miss Liberty that  
she'll have to turn around to see me again and  
still have a nice little country home to be  
comfortable in - well that's really not a bad  
future to contemplate. Maybe have a little  
politics and some nice little dinner parties oc-  
casionally just for good measure. How does it  
sound to you? Just its contemplation has al-  
most cured me of the blues.

You know when I was a kid say about 13 or 14  
I was a tremendous reader of heavy literature  
like Homer, Abbot's Lives, Livy, Tacitus, Isach and



I am so glad you are a general. I shall  
always expect you to outrank me in our  
household and there is never any pos-  
sibility of my ever being anything in the  
military beyond a Captain, although  
had the war continued, which God  
forbid, I should eventually have had an-  
other promotion. You tell Geo Fred and  
May that I would have appreciated  
the major's leaves and the compliment  
very highly but I'd never have worn  
them. All promotions ceased in the  
A.E.F. on Nov. 11, 1918 the greatest day in  
history. Personally I'd rather be a Battery  
Commander than a Brigadier General. I am  
virtually the dictator of the actions of 194  
men and if I succeed in making them  
work as one, keep them healthy morally



the memoirs of Napoleon Bonapart.  
Then it was my ambition to make  
Napoleon look like a sucker and I  
thrust for a West Point education  
so I could be one of the oppressors as  
the kid said when asked why he wanted  
to go there. You'd never guess why I  
had such a wild desire and you'll  
laugh when I tell you. It was only  
so you could be the leading lady of  
the palace or empire or whatever  
it was I wanted to build. You may  
not believe it but my notion as to  
who is the best girl in the world has  
never changed and my military am-  
bition has ended by having arrived at  
the post of ecstacy and that's a  
long way from Caesar isn't it?



point where I do the questioning, it seems real  
funny and I can't understand why I was  
ever afraid. I asked one man in line why he  
had no pistol and he swallowed about three  
times and finally succeeded in saying No, sir!  
I found out that he was a replacement from  
the I.O.S. and he'd been told that all the Captains  
of our Bn were hard boiled cookies and  
he'd better step straight. My Irish are not afraid  
of me nor the Colonel either. In fact they some-  
times are very nearly disrespectful to him  
when he acts ludicrously they laugh at him.  
I rather admire 'em for it.

You are probably bored stiff by this time  
but I am writing you just as I feel today.  
I do wish I could see you Christmas day. I'll  
be thinking of you as I usually and anyway.  
I hope to have a better present for you  
next Christmas than the one I tried to send  
you this one. Keep on writing to one who  
thinks of you. Always

Harry Truman  
Capt 1295 am  
American E.F.  
France.



Now I want to be a farmer. Can you  
beat it? I'm hoping you'll like the rub  
just as well as you would have  
the Napoleon. I'm sure the farmer will  
be the happier.

Today was our regular inspection  
day and I had to inspect Pete's battery  
and Salisbury inspected mine. Pete  
looked over Salisbury's. The Chief Quilla  
gave me a very nice clean bill of  
health and of course I gave Pete one.  
You've no idea how scared some of  
these men get when a Captain stops  
in the inspecting process and asks  
him a question. Most of 'em would  
rather go over the top than talk on in-  
spection day. I used to be that way  
myself but since I've got to the





COUNTY COURT  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

ROBERT W. BARR  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE  
EASTERN DISTRICT

HARRY S. TRUMAN  
PRESIDING JUDGE

THOMAS B. BASH  
HOWARD J. FREEMAN  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE  
WESTERN DISTRICT

By Riley, July 17, 1929  
INDEPENDENCE, MO.

Dear Bess:

Well another perfect day. The letter was in the box when I came in from the firing point. I am glad that the baby had a good time at the park and the flying field. I want her to do everything and have everything and still have that most people have to work to live, and I don't want her to be a high hat.

I took my field glasses to the ordnance office of the 128<sup>th</sup> F.A. and had them cleaned. They are just as good as the day I bought them now and I would not trade them for a new pair because of the sentimental attachment. Maybe you don't know it



but I guess I am two thirds durn  
fool and the other third sentimental.  
Whenever I see a yellow headed little  
girl I want to pick her up and  
squeeze her, when I meet a member  
of my battery I don't care how  
mean and good for nothing he is  
he can have whatever I've got and  
when I think of schooldays I always  
think of a pretty little girl with curls  
down her back who grew into the  
best and sweetest sweet heart a  
man ever had and I wish I  
could see her now. Kiss my baby  
and look for me some time Satur-  
day I hope; will phone you if I  
am later. Your good for nothing but  
loving husband  
Harry.





European Plan

# Hotel Robidoux

Accommodations for 500 Guests

Absolutely Fire Proof

W. E. DOWNS, Manager

St. Joseph, Mo.

Sunday May 7, 1937

Dear Bee:-

This has been a very dull Sunday. I came up here last night to a Legion affair and stayed all night and I'm still here at noon. It was a good party but I had to leave it. As usual they got too rough and I'm still in politics. I was supposed to go to the Lake of the Ozarks yesterday with Neild, Bosley and Lutzier, but Neild had to go home so that party was called off. I went out to the farm and had dinner and the phone began its usual tattoo and I came up here! I'll leave for the farm in a few minutes because the room at home has not paint on the floor.

Tomorrow I'll be forty-nine and for all



the good I've done the party might as well be  
left off. Take it all together though the experience  
has been worth while; I'd like to do it again.  
I've been in railroad, bank, farm, war, politics  
love (only once and it still sticks) been busted and  
still am and yet I have stayed an idealist.  
I still believe that my sweetheart is the ideal  
woman and that my daughter is her duplicate.  
I think that for all the horrors of war it still  
makes a man if he's one to start with. Politics  
should make a thief, a rascal, and a pessimist of  
anyone but I don't believe I'm any of them  
and if I can get the Kansas City Court House  
done without scandal no other judge will  
have done as much and then maybe I can  
retire as collector and you and the young  
lady can take some European and South  
American tours when they'll do you most  
good; or maybe go to live in Washington and  
see all the great and near great in action.  
We'll see. I'm carrying the bags till I see you.  
Lots of love to you both Harry.



Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

Washington D.C.  
Dec 11, 1935

Dear Bess:-

Well I am up to date on all correspondence, have no appointments except to eat dinner with Oscar and my head doesn't ache. You've no idea how very pleasant that is. If you and Margey had just come on with me every thing would be perfect. I dread the trip home because I know what they'll do to me.

And yet it's a peculiar feeling to have nothing hanging over me. I keep wanting to do something - there's a driving force inside me that makes me get into things I can't sit still and do nothing. I've



read the Interstate Commerce Law  
in the last two days and will  
start on the Court decisions unless  
something interferes. I'm going to be  
better informed on the transportation  
problem than anyone here including  
Eastman if I can manage it.  
I'm also studying the banking law.

I wish I'd get a letter every day  
but they just haven't got lined  
out yet. The apartment business  
is all lined out now and I  
look for nothing to worry us there.  
We can get Nettie if we want her  
I'm sure. Kiss Margery and keep  
writing. Love to you both  
Harry



Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

Washington, D.C.  
Sunday June 28

Dear Bess:-

I was so lonesome last night I just had to spend four dollars to call you up. If I'd stayed in Philly it would have cost me five for a hotel and I'd gotten wet besides. The N.Y. Times said this morning that everyone got soaked but they stayed anyway, a hundred and fifty thousand of them to hear and see the President and Coosus Jack. That's a real tribute. His speech was masterpiece I think. The Convention was like all such gatherings, just one grand yell from start to finish and in order find out what went on it was necessary to read.



the papers or go down to a hotel  
and listen to the radio. You could  
not tell what was happening by  
being on the floor. I was there every  
day and every night except Thursday  
night. When they nominated Roosevelt  
I left after an hour. Jim Pendegast  
got the leg of his pants ripped down  
the front on a railing during the  
demonstration. Luckily he had an-  
other pair - it was a Ted Works suit.  
I went to bed early Friday night got up  
at 5 A.M. real time and drove down  
here. Cleared up the pressing mail  
and slept all afternoon. called you  
up and then went to bed. I've been  
clearing off my desk this morning.  
Have two waste baskets full of  
"important" papers to throw away.



Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

I hope you are enjoying the day.  
It's just about as hot here as it  
was in Independence June 28, 1919.  
I wish I had a grey checked suit to  
celebrate in, but I haven't so put  
on a white one. There is no  
special prize for seventeen years  
of married life that I could dis-  
cover so you'll have to make  
out without any. I'd like to be  
there to take you out to dinner  
though. Lots of water has gone un-  
der the bridge since then. War heroes  
are no longer that. They are now  
looked upon as a sort of nuisance  
and are considered fools to have.



gone. Clark made the statement  
that if his pa had been President  
there'd have been no war at all.  
Oh well!

I think my sweetheart is better  
looking today than ever, if that  
is possible and you know it is  
not fashionable now to think that  
of the same one. Please Mrs Margie  
and I hope I get that letter  
tomorrow it was in the  
mail this morning.

Love to you and I hope  
for at least seventeen more

Harry



Harry S. Truman  
Independence, Mo.

Pennsylvania Train  
No 30 to Washington 7/1/37.

Dear Bess! It was good to hear your voice  
last night, but not half as good as really seeing  
and talking to you - even if my combina-  
tion of words makes you sick sometimes.  
I suppose I'm a clown and a fool but I've  
never cared much how words were com-  
bined if their meaning happened to be  
honest and sincere, and that is all words  
are for. Maybe you don't know it, but I'd  
rather lose a hand or have an eye pulled  
out than make you a moment's suffering  
or hurt - either mentally or physically. I've  
seen so much difficulty caused by sheer  
unthoughtfulness that I've tried all my  
life to be thoughtful and to make every  
person I come in contact with happier  
for having seen me. Maybe that's silly.  
Too. I don't know. I've never paid any at-  
tention to what people here said about  
me and very little to what they say to  
me, because most people only mean  
about half they say. Well the sun has



been shining all afternoon, although it  
snowed all forenoon in St Louis. The  
B. & O. canceled their 11:58 train last night  
and the Pennsylvania 12:30 A. M. train  
gets to Washington at exactly the same  
hour as the one that leaves at nine  
the next morning, so I decided to take  
the noon train, "Spirit of St Louis" and  
arrive at 9:25 two hours after the other  
two. The Gov. was most cordial but he  
is going to do as he pleases - and so  
would I if I were in his shoes. I really  
believe he'll make one of this country's real  
ones. Anyway he's not a booze fighter  
nor is he running after the ladies.  
So if we don't get jobs for the faithful  
maybe the State will profit anyway. He  
likes pomp and circumstance and maybe  
that's all there is to any of it. The train  
is rough. Kiss Margie; love to you Harry.



Berlin, 7/11/45.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Bess. - The letter came last night while I was at Joe's dinner. Was I glad to get it! No your taste in hats is not skrenny. If you ever cultivate the same sort of you for crazy hats that the two you gave those Paris ones to, here I'll refuse to go to church with you. I'd say that is a dire threat. Your hats suit me and theirs do not.

I can't get Chanel #5. Padre says there is none to be had - not even on the black market. His home station is in Paris. But I managed to get some other kind for \$6.00 an ounce at the American P.X. They said it is equal to #5 and



sells for \$350<sup>00</sup> an ounce at home. So  
if you don't like it a profit can be  
made on it. I bought you a Belgian  
lace luncheon set - the prettiest thing  
you ever saw. I'm not going to tell  
you what it cost - you'd probably have  
a receiver appointed for me and of-  
ficially take over the strong box. But  
I came out a few dollars to the good  
in the game of chance on the boat - so  
it's invested in a luxury for you.

The Padre has had a good time. He  
and Charlie Ross hit it off perfectly,  
and of course Vaughan, Vardaman and  
Capt were his old buddies of Ft. Riley  
and Leavenworth. I'm going to mass  
at 11:30, presided over by him. I'll



already been to a Protestant service  
so I guess I should stand in good  
with the Almighty for the coming  
week - and my law I'll need it.

But I seem to have Joe + Winnie  
talking to themselves and both are be-  
ing exceedingly careful with me.  
Uncle Joe gave this dinner last night.  
There were at least 25 toasts - so  
much getting up and down that there  
was practically no time to eat or  
drink either - a very good thing. Being  
the superduper guest I pulled out at  
11 o'clock after a lovely piano and viola  
concert by a ditty faced quartet. The  
two men play the piano, the two women  
the viola. I never heard any better  
ones. Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Liszt, Hungarian



Rhapsody, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish  
folk dances - it was real music.  
Since I'd had America's No. 1 pianist to  
play for Uncle Joe at my dinner he  
had to go me one better. I had one and  
one violinist - and he had two of each.

He talked to me confidentially at the  
dinner and I believe things will be  
all right in most instances. Some  
things we won't and can't agree on - but  
I have already what I came for. Hope  
I can break it off in a few days.

The weather is perfect and I feel  
fine. The boys say there's never been  
a conference as well presided over.  
The Senate gave me some good experience.  
Lots & lots of love, kiss the baby.  
Harry.



March 4, 1947

Dear Bess: We arrived on  
the boat at 10 A.M. Left K C  
at 3:04 and had to slow  
down so we would not ar-  
rive too soon. I rode with  
the pilot as we went over  
the 10000 foot rim of the  
Valley of Mexico City. Popocatepetl  
came into view about a hun-  
dred miles from the valley,  
but we couldn't see Orizaba



because of the haze. Orizaba  
is just west of Vera Cruz  
and rises right out of the  
sea level plane to 18 700 feet.  
Popo is a thousand feet lower.

The airport was lined with  
people and the Mexicans put  
on a real show for me.

The Mayor of the City and Gov. of  
the Federal District (the same man)  
made me guest of honor and  
presented me with a solid  
gold medal weighing a half



porand with the ruins of the  
city on one side and a re-  
plica of the Aztec calendar  
stone on the other. I saw  
it all day to the delight of  
the Mexican President.

He has a beautiful home  
where I called on him,  
and three lovely children,  
two boys and a girl. I met  
the First Lady of Mexico and she  
is a charming person.  
The President told me at the



frankly that she was highly  
pleased with the presents you  
sent. They are sending you  
a silver tea service.

Last night's affair was a colossal  
one. The streets were packed from  
the Embassy to the Palace and  
at least 10,000 were in the square  
in front of it. The President & I  
had to greet them from the  
balcony in Franz Joseph style. Never  
had such a welcome. Hope every-  
thing is going well. Tell Margie to  
behave! Lots of love Harry



Sept. 30, 1947.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Bess:- Yesterday was one of the most hectic of days as I told you. I'm not sure what has been my worst day. But here is a situation fraught with terrible consequences. Suppose, for instance that Italy should fold up and that Tito then would march into the Po Valley. All the Mediterranean Coast of France then is open to Russian occupation and the iron curtain comes to Bordeaux, Calais, Antwerp and the Hague. We withdraw from Greece and Turkey and prepare for war! It just must not happen. But here I am confronted with a violently opposition Congress whose committees



would cost us 400 billion and untold  
lives, mostly civilian. So I must do  
what I can. I should not write you  
this stuff but you should know what  
I've been facing since Potsdam.

Bill Helms' book is a great disappoint-  
ment. It is a build up of Bill and not  
a biography of me. Too fast. The Potsdam  
has a bad effect on all of 'em.

Hope you have a nice time a good  
party at the Kenbach. I'm sure you will.  
I haven't resumed my walks yet but will  
in a day or two. Too much to read.

Gen. Bradley made a report to me today  
on his European trip and he remarked  
on my having had to make more mo-  
mentous decisions than nearly any other  
president. He's right, and I hope



2

with few exceptions, are living in 1890;  
is not representative of the country;  
thinking at all. But I've a job and it  
must be done - win lose or draw.

Sent letters to Taker, Bridges, Vandenberg  
and Eaton requesting them to call their  
committees together as soon as possible.  
Had my food committee together and  
will make a radio speech Sunday.  
To feed France and Italy this winter will  
cost 580 million, the Marshall Plan  $16\frac{1}{2}$   
billion. But you know in October + Nov-  
ember 1945 I canceled 63 billion in ap-  
propriations 55 billion at one crack.  
Our war cost that year was set at 105  
billion. The  $16\frac{1}{2}$  is for a four year period  
and is for peace. A Russian war



most of em have been right.

Edward Arnold came in to see me this afternoon and brought me wonderful pictures of all the Presidents. He told me and the office force some good stories about Sam Goldwyn, Harry Warner & Syros Skorus, imitating them in their manner and voice. It gave me sore sides from laughing.

Tell the baby I'll write her soon.  
Hope Frank doesn't get another boil.

Lots of love

Harry.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

July 9 1948

Dear Bess:- I've been trying to write you ever since arrival here but just now succeeded in getting it done. I've had only one walk, that yesterday morning for twenty minutes and no swim at all.

The train was on time Tuesday night and the Democrats were on the south porch when I arrived. We talked until midnight when your call came in and then I read an outline of the platform, gotten up by Sam Rosenman. That took until 1:30



2

Wednesday morning and then I went to sleep. Awoke at 5:30 as usual and heard the news, all about what Jas Roosevelt would do to me etc. Read the mail went to breakfast and to work; had few appointments and so came back to the House at 12 and went to bed. Had sandwich and butter milk and went back to sleep.

Went over the platform again at 4 P.M. came back to the House at 7 had a big dinner and went to bed at 8:30. Never been as tired and groggy in my life. Think the sun had some effect after all. Yesterday was the most hectic. Matt kept running in people to talk



to me - people I didn't want to see.  
These kids around me have all turned  
politicians and precinct captains -  
and they know nothing about it.

Finished the outline for the play-  
pen and sent it to Philly. Settled  
the R.R. strike and had Fred Vinson  
to dinner. He stayed until 11:30 PM  
talking about every thing.

I still don't know what our pro-  
gram is. Biff called and said he  
had a suite for you and Margie  
at the Drake. Evidently they expect  
you to come to the Convention Tuesday  
or Wednesday. I don't know which. I'm  
supposed to go up there Wednesday



on Thursday. Maybe I can tell you  
what we are supposed to do Sunday  
on the phone. I don't know now.

It's worse than Chicago if that's  
possible. I wish I'd stayed on the  
farm and never gone to war in  
the first place!

Well take care of yourself. Kiss  
the daughter and tell everyone hello.  
Hope your mother is all right.

Lots of love

Harry.

Cabinet at ten - and more units  
after that I guess.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1945

The Courts should be strictly judicial and not dabble in policy - except interpretation of the Constitution.

It is not at all proper for courts to try to make laws or to read law school theories into the law and policy laid down by the Congress.

We want no Gestapo or Secret Police. F.B.I.  
H.S.

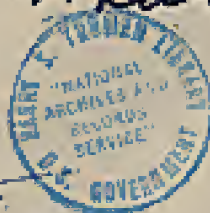


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

is tending in that di-  
rection. They are ~~stuttering~~  
battling in sex life scandals  
and plain blackmail  
when they should be  
catching criminals. They  
also have a lot of  
sneering at local law  
enforcement officers.  
This must stop. Cooper-  
ation is what we must  
have.

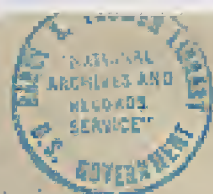
HST





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



I should like to see the  
Constitution amended  
to do away with all two  
thirds rules. This means  
treaty ratification and  
Presidential Vetoes. These  
two matters should be  
accomplished by requiring  
a majority of both House  
and Senate - an actual  
majority of the membership  
not a majority of those  
present. Every Legislator  
should be required to ex-  
press his ~~own~~ <sup>opinion</sup> by vote



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



on these two most important legislative responsibilities. They should never be accomplished by unanimous consent.

Impeachment should be made simpler and an impeachment court should be set up on the Supreme court should conduct the trial. The result to be ratified by a majority of Senate and House - same sort of a majority as before stated.  
HST



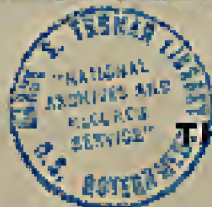
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

School system needs  
overhauling! Kids should  
learn more fundamental  
"reading writing and arithma-  
tic". Freud psychology and  
"nut doctors" should be  
eliminated.







THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 1 '48.

Yesterday was medal pinning day, with one spilling over into this morning.

Gave here early a Distinguished Service Medal. He's earned one in the last 30 days - let alone the previous 12 years.

Called all the White House force into the rose garden and personally read the citation and pinned the medal on him. Said it was his mother's birthday and



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Both of us got sort of emotional. After the pictures we took something for our nerves and to calm our feelings.

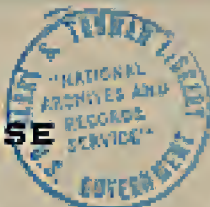
In the morning I had given Mrs Knox a Legion of Merit badge for the dead Secretary of the Navy. It was a nice ceremony too in the executive office with Secs. of War and Navy present with their aides and assistants & wives. Mrs Hull was present.

Gave the Regent of Iraq a merit badge this morning. He is a nice young man



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



and not a bit upsetage.  
His foreign Minister is also  
a regular fellow.

Have been going through  
some very hectic days. Eyes  
troubled somewhat. Too much  
reading "fine print." Nearly  
every memorandum has  
a catch in it and it has  
been necessary to read at  
least a thousand of them  
and as many reports.

Most of it at night. I see  
the Secretaries at 9:15 after  
dictating personal mail



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



for 45 minutes. Usually  
stop in the Map Room at  
8:20 and spend tea minutes  
picking <sup>out about</sup> ship sinkings, casualties  
etc. Gather up dispatches  
from Stalin, Churchill, Hurley  
and others.

After discussing the days  
prospects with Connelly,  
Ross Hassett, McKim, and  
Early (I'll miss him) then  
commence to see the cus-  
tomers. Usually Senators,  
Congressmen, Cabinet mem-  
bers and Missionaries.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Saw Herbert Hoover day before yesterday and had a pleasant and constructive conversation on food and the general troubles of U.S. Presidents - two in particular.

We discussed our prima doctas and wondered what makes 'em. Some of my boys who come in with me are having trouble with their dignity and prerogatives. It's hell when a man gets in close association with the



THE WHITE HOUSE

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President. Something happens  
to him. Study Riervig and  
one or two others.

Some Senators and Con-  
gressmen come in and  
pass the time of day and then  
go out and let me save  
the world in the press.

That publicity complex is  
hell and few can escape  
it's here. When a good man  
comes along who hasn't  
the bug I try to get him



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



The family left for Missouri last evening. Went to the train with them and rode to Silver Spring just as I did with my mother and sister a week or so ago. Daughter was in a very unsatisfactory humor. I hope - sincerely hope, that this situation (my being President) is <sup>not</sup> going to affect her adversely. My great predecessor had a lot of trouble with his family. Most all of em sold him down the river and when they weren't selling him they



THE WHITE HOUSE

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"sold the country. But at  
that I sympathize with them.  
They were handicapped too.  
I'm trying to see that they  
get the same just treatment  
that other Americans get.

I'm always so lonesome  
when the family leaves. I have  
no one to raise a fuss over  
my neckties and my haircuts,  
my shoes and my clothes gen-  
erally. I usually put on a  
terrible tie, not even Bob  
Hannegan or Ed McKim would  
wear just to get a loud  
protest from Bess & Margie.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



When they are gone I have  
to put on the right ones and  
it's no fun.

Went to church this morning  
and beat the publicity boys.  
Walked across Jackson Park with  
no advance detail and slipped  
into a rear pew of St. Johns  
Church without attracting any  
notice whatever. Do it think  
over six people recognized me.  
Several soldiers & sailors stood  
and saluted me as I walked  
across the park but there  
were no curiosity seekers  
around and I enjoyed the



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



back of em.

Had dinner on the south porch all by myself. It is a beautiful outlook across the White House lawn to the Jefferson Memorial with the Washington Monument rising just to the left of the picture. And the Saboteur Press, represented by Mr. Walden did everything possible to present the building of the Jefferson Memorial. It makes a lovely picture from that south porch.

Chuck was rather dull



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



But I had a chance to do some thinking and the time was not wasted. A lot of the world's troubles have been caused by the interpretation of the Gospels and the controversies between sects and creeds. It is also silly and comes of the prima donna complex again.

The Jews claim God Almighty picked 'em out for special privilege. Well I'm sure He had better judgment. Fact is I never thought God picked any favorites. It is my



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



studied opinion that any  
race, creed or color can be  
God's pointers if they act the  
part - and very few of em  
do that.

June 4. 1945.

Some day Alabama Sena-  
tors & Rep. Sparkman hear of  
a Board vacancy & want it  
for Alabama. I advise their ac-  
tivity.

Saw the Big Four from the  
Congress - W. Keller, Barkley,  
Rayburn, W. Connick. Rayburn  
spent week end in Maryland  
at the fishing resort of Jim  
Barnes - a grand old Whist



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



State guests sleep; the Lincoln and Monroe rooms and my own and the family quarters. I think they got a kick out of their high powered guide - so did I.

June 5 '45.

Another lecture day in the executive office. Saw a lot of customers. Hope they all left happy. Most of 'em did.

Took Ross Snyder and Rosenman to the "House" for lunch. Had 'em upstairs in my so called "Study" and gave them a libation before we went to the family dining room



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



June 5 '45  
for lunch. Told the three  
of them that they were most  
in my confidence and that  
I wanted frank and unadul-  
terated statements of fact to  
use from them - and that when  
they couldn't treat me on that  
basis, they'd be of no use to me.

We had a nice lunch and  
discussed sale of war plants,  
surplus property board chair-  
man, and F.E.P.C. All loaded  
with political dynamite. We  
expressed opinions of various  
people including Guy Gillette  
and his successor. Guy can't  
shake up his mind on anything.  
If God told him to take charge



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



of Heaven, he'd be dead sure  
that Hell would be an easier  
place to run. I have known him  
to change his mind three times  
in as many conferences on  
one issue. He's very religious  
very good looking and is so an-  
xious to do what is right. But  
he can never make up his  
mind on what God wants. If  
he had the power of decision  
he'd be a great man. Too bad  
he has it.

Went to a party this evening  
for Leshe Biffle. ~~Don~~ <sup>Don</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup>  
was the host. His Barkley's son-  
in-law. I was a surprise  
guest. Arrived at the hotel



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Raleigh bby about seven  
o'clock. The secret service men  
were getting me through the  
bby - pushing people right  
and left to make way for the  
President - politely of course.  
We came to the elevator and  
there were Biff, several  
Congressmen and a Senator  
or two waiting to go up. The  
Secret Service men who take  
care of the Nation's Chief Ex-  
ecutive, think only of the  
President and his convenience.  
Sometimes it is very em-  
barrassing to a modest man.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



They began pushing Congressmen, Senators and other big shots out of the way at the ~~the~~ elevator - even including the guest of honor - Mr. Biddle. Biddle is rather slight in build weighing about 130 pounds so I grabbed him from behind by his elbows and shoved him into the elevator ahead of me. He thought he was being too roughly treated for a regular Raleigh guest and turned on me to express his opinion. When he saw who was handling him, he was so surprised and happy that



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



it made me ashamed.

The dinner was one great success. ~~Don~~<sup>Wirtz</sup> called on Biff's Senator from Arkansas, Bill Fullbright, who made some very appropriate remarks. Then he called on Judge Price, Sen. Scott Lucas, Sen. Hatch and his father-in-law Sen. Barkley. Barkley really spread himself. He not only paid a great tribute to Biff but he went out of his way to pay a very high compliment to me.

Wish Ned had a stenographer there. It was a heartiest endorsement of Biff & me.



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Got back to the White House  
at 10:30. Called the Madam  
and talked to her and my baby  
girl (she does n't like that designa-  
tion). I can't help wanting to  
talk to my sweetheart and my  
baby every night. I'm a damn  
fool I guess because I could  
never get excited or worked  
up about gals or women. I  
only had one sweetheart from  
the time I was six. I saw  
her in Sunday School at the  
Presbyterian Church in Indepen-  
dence when my mother took  
me there at that age and  
afterwards in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at  
the Ott School in Independence



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



when her Aunt Nannie was  
our teacher and she sat be-  
hind me. She sat behind  
me in the sixth, seventh  
and High School grades and  
I thought she was the most  
beautiful and the sweetest  
person on earth - and I'm  
still of that opinion after  
twenty six years of being mar-  
ried to her. I'm old fashioned  
I guess. But it's a happy state  
to labor under in this terrible  
job I fell heir to on Apr. 12 45.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 7 '45

Looks like San Francisco would be a success yet. Which Joe agreed to accept our interpretation of the Veto. He also agreed to reconsider the Polish question. We may get a peace yet. Hopkins has done a good job in Moscow.

Danes did a good one in Britain. It was a good thought when they were sent over.

Montana went Laywine and elected a Republican Congressman and Wheeler went Laywine in Italy on the Russians. Every time



THE WHITE HOUSE

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we get things going half way  
right with the Soviets some  
somat aleck has to attack  
them. If it isn't Willie Hearst,  
it's Bertie M. Czymark or  
Bert Wheeler ~~is~~ <sup>it is</sup> some other  
kind who wanted to appease  
Germany but just can't see  
any good in Russia. I'm  
not afraid of Russia. They've  
always been our friends and  
I can't see any reason why  
they shouldn't always be. The  
only trouble is the Crazy Am-  
erican Communist. There is  
only one in a million



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



of our population but they  
are loyal to Stalin and not  
to the American President.  
I'd like to send them to Russia.  
Uncle Joe would promptly send  
them to Siberia or a concen-  
tration camp I'm sure. But  
I can't do that and would not  
if I could. Emma Goldman  
and William Z. Foster found  
by experience that the dicta-  
torship of the politician is  
no different from the Czar  
or Hitler. There is no socialism  
in Russia. It's the hatred  
of special privilege.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



A common everyday citizen  
has about as much to say  
about his government as a  
stock holder in the Standard  
Oil of New Jersey has about his  
Company. But I don't care  
what they do. They evidently  
like their government or  
they wouldn't die for it. I  
like ours so let's get along.

You know Americans are  
funny kids. They are always  
sticking their noses into  
somebody's business which  
isn't any of theirs.  
We send missionaries and



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



political propagandists to  
China, Turkey, India and  
everywhere to tell those people  
how to live. Most of 'em know  
as much or more than we  
do. Russia won't let 'em in.  
But when Russia puts out  
propaganda to help our  
parlor pinkies - well that's  
bad - so we think. There is  
not any difference between  
the two approaches except  
one is "my" approach and  
the other is "yours." Just  
a "meat & bean" affair.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



The United States was created by the boys and girls who ~~got along~~ couldn't get along at home. So called Puritans who were not by any means pure came to Mass to try out their own witch burning theories. Roger Williams could not stand even any better than they could stand England under the Stuarts.

Most every colony on the East Coast was founded for about the same reason by folks who couldn't get along at home. But by amalgamation we're made a very good



THE WHITE HOUSE

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country and a great nation with a reasonably good government. I want to maintain it and shall do all I can in spite of the hyphenates and crackpots.

I see no more use for Polish-Americans, Irish-Americans, Swedish-Americans or any other sort of hyphenate than I have for Communist-Americans. They all have some other loyalty than the one they should have. Maybe the old melting pot will take care of it. I hope so.





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 17 '65

Went down the River today  
on the Potomac to discuss  
plan, issues, and decisions.  
Took Charlie Ross, straight thinker,  
honest man who tells  
me the truth so I under-  
stand what he means;  
Matt Connelly, shrewd Irish-  
man, who raises up the  
chips and shows me the  
kugs, honest, fair, diplomatic  
with me; Judge Fred Vinson,  
straight shooter, knows Con-  
gress and how they think



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



a man to trust, Judge  
Rosenman, one of the ablest  
in Washington, keen mind, a  
lucid pen, a loyal Roosevelt  
man and an equally loyal  
Truman man; Steve Early,  
a keen observer, political and  
other wise, has acted as my  
hatchet man, absolutely loyal  
and trustworthy, same can  
be said as about Rosenman.

We discussed public relations  
in Germany, Italy, France, Hol-  
land, Belgium, England and  
Russia. Food, fuel, transporta-  
tion and what to do about it.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Japanese War and the relations with China, Russia, and Britain with regard to it; Supreme Commander and what to do with Mr. Prima Donna. Brass Hat, Five Star McArthur. He's worse than the Cabots and the Lodges - they at least talked with one another before they told God what to do. Mc tells God right off. It is a very great pity we have to have Stuffed Shirts like that in key positions. I don't see why in Hell Roosevelt didn't order Wainwright home and



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let Mr. Arthur be a martyr.  
Guess he was afraid of the  
Datatage Press - W. Cornish -  
Patterson Axis. We'd have had  
a real General and a fighting  
man if we had Winwright  
and not a play actor and  
a funce man such as we  
have now.

Don't you know a country  
can produce such men as  
Robert E. Lee, John J. Pershing,  
Eisenhower, Bradley and at  
the same time produce Custer,  
Patton and Mr. Arthurs.



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I have to decide Japanese  
strategy - shall we invade  
Japan proper or shall we  
bomb and blockade? That is  
my hardest decision to date.  
But I'll make it when I have  
all the facts.

So you see we talk about  
more than "Cabbages + Kings and  
Sealing wax and things"

They talked of many things  
Shoes and sealing wax and  
cabbages and kings



FILE NO.  
CA31/

U. S. S. AUGUSTA



Monday, July 9, '45  
FLEET POST OFFICE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Had a very pleasant Sunday. Went to church with Ship's Captain, Sec. State and aides. Then had a shower and a nap. Good lunch and a probability game with Ross, Vaughan and three press assoc. men; ended pleasantly with my doing some satisfactory guessing on my opponents' hole cards.

Good picture show - Got Hoge in tunicol as a private's victim in the West Indies.

Awoke at 6:15 as usual this morning. Took a turn around the deck and then breakfast. Had dinner last night in the officers mess or ward room.

Maneuvers and firing at 8:30. Eight inch fire incl and 40 mm. Most interesting to be - cause of field artillery experience. I'd still rather fire a battery than run a country.



Had lunch with warrant officer. It was a  
good one. There is an excellent band of  
30 pieces and an orchestra from the same  
thirty. They make excellent music at all  
meals but breakfast. They are proud I  
like good music and they play it for me.



8/15/80

a prayer said over & over, 3 or 4 times

Oh! Almighty and Everlasting  
God, Creator of Heaven, Earth  
and the Universe:-



Help me to be, to think, to act  
right; make me truthful, honest  
and honorable in all things; make  
me intellectually honest for the  
sake of right and honor and  
without thought of reward to me.  
Give me the ability to be charitable,  
forgiving and patient with my fellow-  
men - help me to understand their  
motives and their shortcomings -  
even as thou understandest mine!  
Amen, Amen, Amen.



The prayer on the other side  
of this page has been said by  
me - by Harry S. Truman from  
high school days: as window washer,  
tooth duster, floor scrubber in an  
Independence, Mo. drug store, as  
a timekeeper on a railroad contract  
gang, as an employee of an untruth-  
ful and character assassinating news  
paper, as a bank clerk, as a farmer  
riding a gang plow behind four horses  
and mules, as a fraternity official  
learning to say nothing at all if good  
could not be said of a man, as a public  
official judging the weaknesses and  
shortcomings of constituents  
and as President of the U.S.A.



A prayer said over & over all my life  
from eighteen years old and younger.

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8-15-'50

Oh! Almighty and Everlasting  
God, Creator of Heaven, Earth and the  
Universe:-



Help me to be, to think, to act what  
is right, because it is right; make  
me truthful, honest and honorable  
in all things; make me intellectually  
honest for the sake of right and  
honor and without thought of  
reward to me. Give me the ability  
to be charitable, forgiving and pa-  
tient with my fellowmen - help me  
to understand their motives and  
their shortcomings - even as Thou  
understandest mine!

Amen, Amen, Amen.



Nov. 30, 1950

A most trying and hectic week. The last session of the 81<sup>st</sup> Congress has been in session for a few days and it looks as if there are more snarls than patriots in it. My friend Harry Byrd says he has the professional southerners lined up against Yugoslav Aid. Wonder if he'd like being branded Stalin's No. 2 helper in the Senate. McCarthy of Wisconsin is No. 1. Ellender, a leftover of the Huey P. Long regime in Louisiana and Jim Eastland a Dixiecrat from Mississippi have decided against Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii - color and power!

Fullbright from Arkansas, an Oxford man wants the R.F.C. handicapped and Gene Cox of Georgia wants to restore the



power of the Rules Committee in the House to throttle legislation. I suppose that Presidents in the past have had hostile Congresses - but they were frankly of the opposition. This one - the 81<sup>st</sup> happens to be of my own party on the surface. But the majority is made up of "Republicans and recalcitrant Southern Democrats" - who are not Democrats. So I get the responsibility and the blame.

There are liars, trimmers and pussyfooters on both sides of the aisle in the Senate and the House.

I'm sorry. I wish I had straight out opposition and loyal support. I guess it is too much to ask for!



Feb. 18, 1952

Had a grand meeting tonight from 6:40 to 11:25 P.M. Dinner and a discussion of the Presidential Campaign. Present were the Chief Justice, Fred Vinson, Sam Rosenman, William O. Hassett, Clark Clifford, John R. Steelman, Charles Murphy.

The discussion was about possible candidates for President, including the present occupant of the White House.

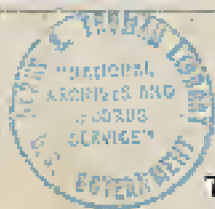
The Chief Justice opened the discussion by saying that while he did not believe in the indispensable man he did not see how the President could refuse another term. Sam Rosenman came to the same conclusion. Mr. Hassett thought the President should do what he wanted to do and retire and let the



conditions work out the result.  
Dr. Steelman thought that some-  
one could surely be found to  
work out the succession. Clark  
Clifford thought Rott Kern might  
qualify. Mr. Murphy discussed Adlai  
Stevenson pro and con. No real  
conclusions were reached. Every  
one made a contribution.







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May 18, 1952

The conferences on the Korean Armistice are propaganda sounding boards for the Communies.

Charge them with murdering our soldiers and civilians who are prisoners of war against every rule of the Geneva convention. Charge them with kidnapping children in south Korea just as they are doing in Berlin and as they did in Greece. Thousands of German children have been deported in the last seven years and have never been heard from.



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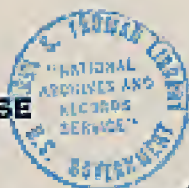


15000 Greek children were taken from their homes and and their parents while the Communies occupied northern Greece. Where are these Korean German and Greek children? Have they been murdered? We believe they have.

What has happened to the 1.000.000 German prisoners the Soviet holds or were they also been murdered as the Poles were murdered at Katyn?  
Where are the million Japs



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who surrendered to the Russian?  
Are they murdered or are they  
in these labor camps?

How many South Koreans and  
Allied prisoners have you shot  
without cause. You claim  
you hold only 1700 prisoners.  
Where are the other thousands  
of civilians and soldiers you  
carried off from South Korea?

If you signed an agree-  
ment it wouldn't be worth  
the paper it is written on.